

## Colchester Community and Economic Development Advisory Council (CEDAC) Minutes September 17, 2009

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Members Attending: David Usher, Chair, Nanci Glindmyer, Vice-Chair, Mike Mazza, Joe Egan, Paul Olsen, James Ehlers. Absent: Deborah Winters, J. Churchill Hindes, Bill Peters. Others: Kimberly Murray.

The Council welcomed new member James Ehlers. James told the group a little about his background in publishing, his work on a national committee benefiting Lake Champlain, his role as Director of Lake Champlain International. James estimates that 5400-5800 people participated in the Father's Day Derby this past June. He expressed the need for Colchester to welcome the anglers with the message that we want them here. He gave an example of Polaski, NY which has promoted the Salmon River as a great place for fishing and now anglers come from all over to fish there. He feels Colchester has many resources already present that we can actively promote including eight prominent game species, excellent boat launch, supplies and gear. The Council will continue to discuss this idea at a future meeting.

The minutes from August 20<sup>th</sup> were approved with corrections. Paul made the motion, seconded by Joe.

### Director's Local Option Tax Memorandum to Select Board

Kimberly briefly described the memo to the Select Board regarding her task to discuss possible uses for revenue of the local option taxes if they were adopted. Kimberly distributed the memo to the Select Board at their meeting on 9/8 for informational purposes. The Board does not intend to pursue the tax at this time. Paul asked about the Town's authority to implement a tax incentive program as suggested in the memo. Kimberly replied that the Town would need to outline a plan for developing, implementing, overseeing, and evaluating the effectiveness of such a program with the Select Board approval for use of the tax funds for such a purpose. The State would not need to approve it. We may want to look to the State's VEGI program as a model with which to adapt our program from.

Dave gave a bit of history of the topic and CEDAC's involvement for James' benefit including their disagreement with the Select Board around proposing the tax for the ballot last year and how it was proposed. Kimberly noted the Select Board appreciates the CEDAC's work and recommendations but feel that Town Boards should support the Select Board's decisions once they are made. Dave noted that the CEDAC does not have an opinion on the memo although Kimberly had consulted the Council over the summer on the topic.

### Economic Development Plan

Nancy noticed that some redevelopment is occurring along Prim Road. The Dollar Store is going into the old Agway building and a Subway into the old Dunkin Donuts building.

James asked if the Council had an inventory of our assets. It is important to know as we move forward. Kimberly explained that we have listed six broad assets but have not fleshed them out in great detail yet. We discussed one asset, Malletts Bay as an example. As Dave mentioned, many studies have been done and continues to be done including the Fire District's sewer expansion, the Town's EPA water quality study, the West Lakeshore Drive study, and now we need to also look at disaster planning for the area. He went on to explain the Committee of Committees has asked that Sarah Hadd and Kimberly draft a two page proposal for maximizing

the asset, Malletts Bay, over a 20 year horizon. Select Board support and leadership is needed for it to be successful.

The group discussed the draft goals of the plan. Five were created from last month's discussion. The first three will be kept including focusing on improving our assets and how to leverage them; focus on attracting and retaining value added businesses that need those assets; and for the plan to be useful, whether policy direction or in Act 250 hearings. The fourth goal focusing on specific business types needs to be fleshed out more. The fifth which promotes the CED Department as an asset to the Colchester business community for recruiting, retention, and support, the Council felt may be more of a strategy to help implement the goals of the ED Plan.

There was a brief discussion about the new CED web pages and that it would be nice if there was some way we could have a database of commercial vacancies. Kimberly updated the group on the wayfinding sign package that was presented to the Select Board on 9/8.

The next CEDAC meeting will be October 15, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. We will have a presentation on the Exit 16 Transportation Study from the consultant RSG, and the Chittenden County MPO.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Kimberly L. Murray, AICP